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(71) Applicant: **BRACCO RESEARCH SA** [—/CH]; 31,  
route de la Galaise, CH-1228 Plan les Ouates (CH).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **SCHNEIDER**,  
Michel [FR/—]; 34, Route d'Annecy, CH-1256 Troinex  
(CH). **BUSSAT**, Philippe [FR/FR]; 46, Allée du Salève,  
F-74160 Feigères (FR). **YAN**, Feng [FR/CH]; 7, Chemin  
des Champs Gottreux, CH-1216 Grand Lancy (CH).  
**GUILLOT**, Christian [FR/FR]; 70, Chemin de Zone,  
F-74160 Beaumont (FR).

(74) Agent: **RAVIZZA**, Claudio; Bracco Research SA, In-  
tellectual Property Department, 31, route de la Galaise,  
CH-1228 Plan les Ouates (CH).

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**Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

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AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ,  
CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE,  
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(54) Title: **ULTRASOUND CONTRAST AGENTS AND PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION THEREOF**

(57) Abstract: Method for preparing a lyophilized matrix and, upon reconstitution of the same, a respective injectable contrast agent comprising a liquid aqueous suspension of gas-filled microbubbles stabilized predominantly by a phospholipid. The method comprises preparing an emulsion from an aqueous medium, a phospholipid and a water immiscible organic solvent. The emulsion is then freeze-dried and subsequently reconstituted in an aqueous suspension of gas-filled microbubbles. The method allows to obtain suspensions comprising microbubbles having a relatively small diameter and a narrow size distribution.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
 IPC 7 A61K49/22 A61K49/18 A61K9/19

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X	WO 98/05364 A (MARSDEN JOHN CHRISTOPHER ; BRAENDEN JORUNN (NO); DUGSTAD HARALD (NO);) 12 February 1998 (1998-02-12) page 22, line 15 - page 23, line 30	35-40
X	US 6 280 705 B1 (KLEIN DAVID H ET AL) 28 August 2001 (2001-08-28) claims; examples	35-40
	-/-	



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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
 Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
 Fax: (+31-70) 340-3018

Authorized officer

Venturini, F

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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